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## DO WE NEED SCHOOL SUPERVISORS?

While disclaiming any disposition to be meddlesomely officious in matters pertaining to the administration of the public school system of the city, county or state, The Times holds that it is the duty of the public spirited citizen, no less than that of the public spirited citizen, to speak plainly concerning matters of educational policy wherein the interests of the whole people are involved.

The public schools belong to the whole people—the people who foot the expense bills and pay the salaries—and the people therefore have an unquestioned right to interest themselves in the way the school affairs are administered.

Even the most casual observer has noticed that there has been more or less strife and contention in the management of the school affairs in Oklahoma City during the past ten years. It is unnecessary to rehearse the story. Suffice it to say that self interest has generally been at the bottom of the trouble. Too often has there been an effort at star chamber procedure with little thought or care for the rights of the supporting public.

Recently there has been another stir in city school circles, with an investigation in the course of which personalities and animosity were much in evidence. For several years past there has been maintained in the public school system of Oklahoma City a position entitled "supervisor of primary work." As to whether or not there is any real need for it, there is at least room for a difference of opinion, for there are those who hold that the work of the primary grades could be standardized without it.

The superintendent and the ward principal are employed in supervisory capacities. Supervisors in drawing and music are manifestly needed, since these lines fall for special talent and training not possessed by the average primary teacher. Aside from these branches, however, it may well be questioned whether the expert supervisor business is not being overdone, for the primary teacher is proficient else she would not have been employed in the first place.

Just why the primary teachers, many of whom have been specially trained for this work in the normal schools and the many who have also had years of successful experience in actual work need supervision in addition to that of the principals and superintendent has never been explained.

## PROGRESS OF POSTAL SAVINGS BANKS.

From the information sent out by a Washington correspondent it is learned that the postal savings banks, in the opinion of those who promoted them, have not quite come up to expectations, although it is admitted that they have filled a long-felt want. It is admitted by those who promoted the idea of the postal savings banks, according to this correspondent, that they are growing in favor.

Association of ideas suggests that it is equally true that neither has the system been the menace to the private savings banks of the country which its opponents feared and predicted that it would be. The statute creating the postal savings bank system was carefully drawn with a view to serving a certain considerable class of persons without disturbing the existing banking system.

It has succeeded in doing the former in an increasing degree and so far as the ordinary savings banks and commercial banks are concerned they never would know from any effect on their own businesses that it existed—except as it has been a benefit to commercial banks by reason of redeposit in them by the government of the postal savings accumulations.

It will be remembered that violent objections were made to the postal savings banks when it was first proposed to establish them. Bankers of a certain class thought they saw ruin staring them in the face. They cried out that the government was entering into competition with them, but only a little time was required to show them their mistake.

## AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTIONS.

One of the speakers at the Socialist convention in session in this city has laid great stress on constitutions and frequently there is much talk of amending those important documents. Few people know that in amending the constitution of the United States the voters themselves merely look on while it is being done.

Usually we have a great deal to say and we agitate much more, but from the alpha to the omega of the matter we have no vote. It is different with amendment of a state constitution. Not

only may the people make a noise in this instance, but their votes finally decide the matter.

When congress by a two-thirds vote of the membership of each house proposes an amendment to the federal constitution it goes to the legislatures of the states for their action. The voters of the states look on while their legislatures act—look on and perhaps agitate, and it is not impossible that the voice of a persistent and loudly insistent minority will impress a legislature that it is the voice of the people.

It is possible under our system of amending the constitution of the United States for legislatures representing less than half the nation's population to amend contrary to the will of the majority. After submission of an amendment by congress, ratification by legislatures of three-fourths of the states makes it effective and binding upon all the states.

There are forty-eight sovereign commonwealths in the calculation of an amendment the more than 9,000,000 people of the state of New York count for no more than the 81,875 of the state of Nevada. The 81,875 people of the state of Nevada have exactly the same weight as the more than 9,000,000 of the state of New York. The legislature of each state counts one in the equation regardless of the population behind it.

## FAVORITISM IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

It has been said of the French army that "the lion of a field marshal may be found in the knapsack of the humblest private in its ranks," and surely the same chance for deserved promotion should be within the reach of the teachers in our public schools.

As a matter of fact it is not so in the case of the public schools of Oklahoma City, for primary supervisors are invariably imported from elsewhere and installed at a salary that seems disproportionate, not because there are no home teachers who are not thoroughly competent and worthy of such promotion, but rather because the outside candidate has influence with the powers that be.

Is such a system of selection fair to the teachers of Oklahoma City who have proved themselves by years of patient preparation and faithful service? The chances are, indeed, that a more experienced and proficient supervisor could be secured at home, if we must have supervisors, by selecting a successful primary teacher for promotion, than by importing from elsewhere talent concerning whose qualifications little or nothing is known.

The Times is not and has not been a partisan in any of the factional fights which have lowered the efficiency of the Oklahoma City board of education in the past. The time has arrived, however, when plain speech must be used.

The people of Oklahoma City have been busy building a city—so busy that they have delegated the business of managing their schools to a few men. So long as the men to whom power is thus delegated are true to their trust all is well and good, but when star-chamber executive sessions are resorted to in the effort to cover up favoritism and to hide the injustice which is done to the home teachers, from whom the boon of possible promotion is withheld, it is time to turn on the light.

The Times therefore appeals to school patrons and citizens generally to give a larger measure of personal attention to the conduct of the schools of the city than has been their custom in the past. It has no right to make an anyone, but it does insist that in fairness to the teachers the demoralizing effects of favoritism shall be eliminated from the administration of educational affairs in Oklahoma City.

## FINDING THE FORTRESS OBSOLETE.

All ideas, plans and specifications for fortresses will have to be revised. In fact it is now a foregone conclusion that the old style fortress, which once would withstand the onslaughts of anything the enemy could bring against it, is obsolete.

American army engineers in planning for the future defense of this country will scarcely ignore the lessons already taught by the European war, among which is the very patent fact that the steel and concrete stronghold is a thing of the past. The fortresses at Verdun and Toul have escaped devastation because they have been defended from the German army, not because they have been able to repel its attacks.

It is reasonable to expect that from now projects for great fortresses will be cast aside in most part and that there will be substituted strong field entrenchments extending perhaps in several series from frontier to frontier and presenting continuous lines of defense which will be practically impregnable to frontal attack.

Already some hint of the probable permanency of such lines in the European states is given in the quarters that have been thrown up by the allied armies in France, which furnish to the soldiery many of the comforts as well as the necessities of life, and in the strong sharpshooter barracks of the Germans that give their occupants almost complete immunity from harm.

It is easy to imagine that the substitution of such trenches for pretentious fortifications would have peculiar advantages aside from their immediate availability as shelters and as strongholds. They should be relatively inexpensive both to make and to maintain. They could be made more continuous than any line of fortresses. They would be mobile in that they could take advantage of every natural inequality of the ground and could be quickly altered to meet emergencies.

France reports that 489,733 wounded soldiers have been treated thus far in its military hospitals. The death rate is the lowest in the history of war. This is due in part to better types of ordnance and in part to better medical and surgical attention. While no man can refuse his sympathy with every means whereby the horrors of warfare can be minimized, there is little doubt that the better care of the wounded and the cleaner cuts of modern bullets and weapons are a mighty power in lengthening a conflict.

General Joffre has retired twenty-four French generals, giving a variety of reasons. Doubtless the real cause of the action is that they have failed to carry out the ideas of their chief with success. The difficulty Lincoln had to find a leader who could accomplish anything during the civil war shows the problem one has to face in any military crisis. General Joffre seems to be the right man in the right place, but he must have aides who can fulfill his strategy.

## PEANUTS IN THE ROASTER.

Speaking of heroes, though, there is some doubt about the ancient ones being much better than those constructed today in the imagination of the poets and novelists.

It will be remembered that Hon. Dryden had Palamon beat Arcite to it in the end and marry the girl. Also it may be gathered from the poetic recital that his warlike career ended there, but did it?

In romance they always live happily ever afterward, but even the children know that Hans Christian Andersen's Fairy Tales are pure fiction.

And if the suffragist who advised girls not to marry men, but to fight them had changed the order of her



suggestion she would have come nearer having it followed by those she is trying to influence.

Those who have them, though, may not feel so wrought up over the fact that the New Jersey man who killed his son-in-law was acquitted.

In cases of that kind it is generally the son-in-law who sees the injustice wrought by a jury when it brings in such a verdict.

It must be admitted that there are some who do not seem to appreciate the victory they have won even after they have been fully successful, as Colonel Palamon was in his pursuit of Emily.

Of course it will be remembered that Arcite was dead at that time and being in that condition he was not in a position to make any remarks on the subject.

But it is difficult to refrain from believing that what he had to say would have been readable could he have returned after an absence of ten or fifteen years and had been permitted to make a competent survey of conditions in Palamon's household.

All those arguments are vain, however, and should all the mothers give



their daughters the same advice that was given by the suffragist, supplementing it with actual demonstrations on the one man who is most conveniently at hand, we wot that it would not cut any ice.

As a matter of fact we deem it proper to inform the readers of this column that young people will marry, regardless of all the warnings that can be heaped upon them, and that sometimes older persons do not show that they have learned anything by experience.

Also it is well to bear in mind that Colonel Palamon was only a hero in one of Hon. Dryden's poems and that he never performed any of the valorous deeds accredited to him except in imagination.

And those who want to believe that Colonel Arcite, who died, was in reality more fortunate than Colonel Palamon, they still have the privilege of clinging to that belief.

But those who are suffering from broken bones or bruised places acquired while the surface of the state was covered with sleet and snow have



the supreme satisfaction of knowing that the dampness resulting therefrom was worth more than a million dollars to the farmers.

There is also some more satisfaction in reflecting that Col. George Horace Lorimer has never seen fit to sue his humorists on to the subject of marriage.

If it could be connected in some way with Colonel Rhythe's determination to quit drinking there is no doubt about the readers of the Saturday Evening Post being given their fill of it.

Also we take it, from the amount of space that is being consumed by the circulation department, that this is the time to subscribe.

Very naturally we are supposing that Kate Barnard will be here to attend the meeting of the Society of American Indians.

But we think greater interest at this time is centered in the banquet next week wherein the roasting of statesmen is to be one of the features.

And sometimes we almost wish Hon. C. Dryden had not stopped where he did in giving the incidents of Colonel Palamon's life.

Subsequent events, it strikes us, may have been even more interesting.

The continuation of his career as a warrior, we mean.

RICHARD S. GRAVES.

## THE CHINA DOG.

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"This is from Jerry, isn't it? Looks like his writing." Amy's mother took up a square parcel wrapped in pale blue paper and tied with a silver cord. "Yes, I think so." And Amy lifted it with eager hands. "It's heavy," she declared, her eyes sparkling. "I wonder what it can be, mamma." While her pretty face glowed with anticipation she clipped the cord and hastily undid the wrapping, revealing a small box. "It's from Carroll & Baker's," she announced with satisfaction. "I believe it's a silver tea ball; I hinted I wanted one."

She lifted the cover and from its enveloping cotton produced an article of white china.

"A dog! A china dog! Well, of all the queer things to send a girl for a birthday present!" her mother exclaimed impulsively.

A hurt look crept into Amy's brown eyes. She cast a glance at the card, on which was scrawled: "Best wishes to my girl," and tore it into bits. Then she took up the innocent little china dog, his head cocked, on one side in a knowing attitude, and sat back on her heels while she regarded it with eyes slowly filling with tears. She swallowed a sob and looked up at her mother.

"Why do you suppose he sent me a thing like this?" she asked. "It may be a charm or a mascot of some kind. You know those carved lucky elephants?"



"Why Do You Suppose He Sent Me a Thing Like This?"

phantoms you buy at Japanese stores?" "Well, you never heard of a lucky dog." Amy returned, giggling in spite of herself. "It shows how much Jerry cares about me."

Her mother lifted the dog and held it, examining it with careful scrutiny, as if some ulterior meaning might be discovered in its construction. She put it down on the table. "I give it up," she said, smiling. "Perhaps it's only some of Jerry's fun, and he will bring you his present when he comes."

"It's a poor joke," Amy spoke angrily, twisting her engagement ring with nervous fingers. "I've a good mind to send him back his ring and tell him if that old china dog is all he can find to give a girl he's promised to marry—Did the 'phone bring just now, mamma?"

"Yes, I'll answer it." "It's Jerry," said her mother, with one hand over the receiver. "Now, Amy don't be undignified about this. Be careful what you say."

Amy took the receiver. "Hello, Jerry!" she called. "Yes, I got it. Only a few minutes ago. Thank you ever so much for remembering me. My voice sounds queer? I don't know why it should. Jerry, I thought it was perfectly lovely, of course!"

Amy turned to her mother with a puzzled expression. "I can't understand it at all. Mamma, Jerry seemed excited and nervous and wanted to know if the present he ordered sent me from Carroll & Baker's had come. When I said it had he said my voice sounded queer, and then he asked in such an anxious tone if I was sure and if I didn't like his present. His voice sounded—so worried I had to say it was lovely to comfort him. I'm such a goose." With which Amy took the dog and went to her room for a good cry.

When her father and mother were alone later in the day, her father asked, "By the way, what did Jerry give Amy?"

"A china dog." "A what?" "What I just told you. A china dog—a piece of bric-a-brac."

"Well, well! That beats me. A



"My Heart Was Broken."

china dog! Let me see this wonderful dog."

"I can't. Amy took it upstairs with her. Don't say anything to her about it, please. Her feelings are very much hurt."

Amy's father pursed his lips. "I should have said that chap hadn't a mean streak in him. Some mistake about it, I guess."

"I'm afraid not," came slowly from his wife's lips. "Poor Amy's birthday is quite spoiled. The child tries to be cheerful, but I notice her lips tremble the way they do when something has hurt her."

"Jerry's invited to dinner here, isn't he?"

"Yes, it will be very embarrassing. A few minutes before the dinner hour Amy was in the dining room, putting the last touches to the table. She hurried into the hall where Jerry, eyes bright and face ruddy with cold, was removing his overcoat. From the pocket he produced a festive looking box of candy.

"For the sweetest girl in the world," he said gaily. "As they say, sweets to the sweet."

Amy took the box with a quiet word of thanks. "Let's see your presents," Jerry went on, putting his arm around her waist. "Where have you put the dog?"

Amy stiffened herself slightly in his encircling arm. "It's upstairs in my room," she said in a firm tone, determined not to cry.

"See here, Amy," and Jerry took her face between his hands. "That dog means a great deal to me. It is exactly like a dog I used to own when I was a kid. I had a pretty hard time of it at home with my stepfather and that dog was my comfort. I don't suppose a girl knows how much a dog can be to a boy. When he was run over by the cars my heart was about broken."

"Poor Jerry! I'm glad, yes glad you bought it and gave it to me," Amy said tentatively.

With a low laugh of satisfaction Jerry bent his head and kissed her. "I don't mind telling you I was scared green after I'd ordered it sent to you," he said. "I almost held my breath when you told me over the phone you thought it was lovely. That's the reason I care so much for you; I know you will understand. I wouldn't have dared to send that dog to another girl in the world."

Amy was silent. In her heart was a conflict that she might almost have faith to understand.

## FACING A MEAT FAMINE.

Shortage in the world's meat supply and still higher prices for consumers are predicted by livestock experts.

Meat in America will be a rarity before the war ends, in the opinion of Henry J. Williamson, government statistician of the department of agriculture.

Government experts who have compiled figures place the visible supply of cattle in this country at only 35,000,000, including calves, yearlings and full grown stock.

Livestock men assert that there has been a decrease of over 10,000,000 head of cattle in this country during the last two years and an increase in valuation of almost \$880,000,000.

The number of cattle in the United States has diminished and the population increased progressively for ten years until now they are too widely divergent to hope to get a full supply for a least ten years more.

It is officially stated that "unless scientific breeding for increase is general and the slaughter of calves ceases before five years have expired America will find herself in the class of European countries that have to import beef."

## ACTIVE FOR PEACE.

A campaign for world-wide peace will soon be in full swing in the United States.

As soon as the war now devastating Europe is over it is believed that a united effort will be made by the nations to take steps to forever prevent any possibility of future wars.

Secretary of State William J. Bryan has proposed to congress of all neutral nations to lay the foundation of an international peace commission or "world government." Its plan contemplates a call for a peace congress by American women.

The International Peace and Equity League, the object of which is to disarm all nations of the earth is active in the organization of local leagues. It is predicted that the league will be one of the important factors in bringing universal disarmament.

The horse had run away and was tangled up in the wire fence at the side of the muddy road. Its half-witted owner had kicked and sworn and tried to lift the animal till he was out of sorts and covered with mud.

A well groomed man came along, took in the situation and suggested: "Spring the fence back, and then he can get his feet free."

The owner of the horse did as he was told. "Now give him a cut with the whip and he'll get up himself." This the owner also did. Then he looked at the horse, up and ready for travel, looked at himself covered with mud, looked at the immaculate gentleman in the road. Wrath filled his soul.

"Well," he grumbled, "thank you just as much as if you'd helped me."

—Everybody's.

As usual, the road was "up," and so was part of the street, for that matter. But it takes more than this to keep Mrs. Bargaunhaunter at home. Her two children comfortably ensconced in the perambulator, she sat down the yawning street.

"Oh, what a darling of a duck of a sweet hat!" she murmured. And leaving the perambulator, she walked to the shop window for a closer look. Absorbed in that darling of a hat, she was so unconscious of the fact that the perambulator had rolled away into a trough until at last she awakened from her blissful dream by the gruff voice of a workman.

"Say missus," he said, "d'yer want these kiddies any more? 'Cos we're just going to fill the hole up!"

"Young man, what profession do you expect to follow when you grow up?" "I'm going to be a doctor," answered the young man, taking out a notebook and pencil. "May I count on you to save my appendix for me?" —Judge.

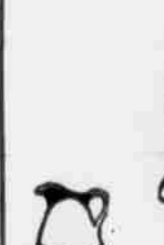
The Man-Who-Never Eats-Breakfast-Foods sat down the other day to a dish of KRUMBLES.



He puckered his lips and scowled.



"How do you eat the stuff?" he asked.



"Here's the cream," said mother.



He took a mouthful doubtfully. Then another. He tried to hide the grin, but couldn't.

And now he insists on KRUMBLES every morning.

What do you think of that?

Every package of KRUMBLES is sealed in Kellogg's Waxite Wrapper.

10¢

Better than buying beefsteak at 10¢ a pound



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